

73. (Amended) The saw [workpiece guide] of claim 71, wherein said head portion of said threaded member is recessed within the surface of said infeed platform.

REMARKS

I. Status of the Application

The status of the Subject Application is as follows: Claims 1-78 are pending in the Subject Application. Claims 1-8, 13-23, 40, 47-55, 61, and 65-73 stand rejected by the Official Action under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 9-12, 24-39, 41-46, 56-60, 62-64, and 74-78 have been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to Applicant's election without traverse of claims 1-8, 13-23, 40, 47-55, 61, and 65-73 in its response to the action of March 26, 1999.

At the outset, Applicant would like to express its appreciation to Examiner Dexter for his attention to detail and for his helpful suggestions both in the Official Action and in the telephone discussion with the undersigned on August 26, 1999. As will be discussed below, in the present Amendment, Applicant has amended the specification, the drawings, and certain of the pending claims along the lines suggested by the Examiner. In addition, Applicant has affirmed the Examiner's withdrawal of claims 9-12, 24-39, 41-46, 56-60, 62-64, and 74-78 from consideration pursuant to Applicant's election. None of the amendments made herein are to address prior art rejections. All of the amendments contained herein are supported by the specification as originally filed. Applicant submits that the present amendments place all of the pending claims in condition for allowance.

## II. Election/Restriction

The Official Action indicates that, "Applicant's election without traverse of group I (claims 1-8, 13-23, 40, 47-55, 61, and 65-73) in the response filed April 20, 1999 (paper no. 6) is acknowledged. Claims 9-12, 24-39, 41-46, 56-60, 62-64, and 74-78 have been withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a non-elected invention." Applicant affirms the Examiner's acknowledgment of the election without traverse of claims 1-8, 13-23, 40, 47-55, 61, and 65-73, and has herein canceled claims 9-12, 24-39, 41-46, 56-60, 62-64, and (74-78.) *not entered*

## III. Drawings

The drawings have been objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). In particular, the Official Action asserts that, "[i]n Figures 1 and 2, the occurrence of '62' with the arrowhead lead line appears to be inaccurate, and it seems that it should be changed to --65-- since it represents the outfeed end (opposite which represents the infeed end)." Responsive to this objection, Applicant respectfully requests replacement of original Figures 1 and 2 with replacement Figures 1 and 2 which depict, in pertinent part, the arrowhead lead line labeled "62" in the original drawings as "65".

In addition, the Official Action asserts that, "[i]n Figure 13, '105' appears to be inaccurate, and it seems that it should be changed to --104-- and --105-- should be added with a lead line extending to the rounded cam surface of clamp 104 to correspond to the specification

(e.g., see page 22, line 6); also, it seems that '104' along with its lead line should be deleted for clarity; further, it seems that --68-- with a lead line extending to the inner region at the infeed end 63 of body 62 should be added for clarity." Responsive to this objection, Applicant respectfully requests replacement of original Figure 13 with replacement Figure 13 which depicts, in pertinent part, "105" with a lead line extending to the rounded cam surface of clamp 104, "104" with a lead line extending to clamp 104, and "68" with a lead line extending to the inner region at the infeed end 63 of body 62.

Further, the Official Action asserts that, "[i]n Figure 15, numerals --72-- and --73-- should be added for clarity; further, the lead line for each of numerals 83 and 84 should end in an arrowhead since these numerals generally represent a height adjustment mechanism." Responsive to this objection, Applicant respectfully requests replacement of original Figure 15 with replacement Figure 15 which depicts "72" and "73" with lead lines extending to the side faces of the body 62 and the lead lines labeled "83" and "84" ending in an arrowhead.

In addition, the Official Action asserts that, "numeral 40 (described on page 12, line 22), numeral 66 (described on page 15, line 17), numerals 77 and 78 (described on page 16, line 11), and numerals 87 and 89 (described on page 18, line 7) are not shown." Responsive to this objection, Applicant respectfully requests replacement of original Figure 1 with replacement Figure 1, which depicts numeral "40" with a lead line extending to the rail system. Applicant also respectfully requests replacement of original Figure 16 with replacement Figure 16, which depicts numeral "66" with a lead line extending to the attachment mechanism, numerals "77" and "78" with lead lines extending to the channels, numerals "87" and "89" with a lead lines

extending to the threaded members, and numeral “100” with a lead line extending to the fastener 100.

As noted by the Examiner in the Official Action, support for amended Figures 1, 2, 13, 15, and 16 can be found in the existing specification. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that replacement Figures 1, 2, 13, 15, and 16 contain no new matter. Applicant respectfully reminds the Examiner that the Subject Application has been filed with informal drawings. Formal drawings will be submitted once the Subject Application has been allowed.

A separate Letter to Draftsperson has been submitted herewith, requesting permission to enter replacement Figures 1, 2, 13, 15, and 16 in accordance with Section 608.02(r) of the *Manual of Patent Examining Procedure* (“MPEP”). A copy of such letter is also attached for the Examiner’s convenience. Accordingly, removal of the objections to the drawings is earnestly solicited.

#### IV. Specification

The disclosure has been objected to in the Official Action because of certain informalities therein. In particular, the Official Action makes the following statements and observations:

“On page 9, line 12, ‘powdered’ is incorrect.” Responsive to this objection, Applicant has amended page 9, line 12 to read “powered”.

“On page 11, line 13, ‘24’ appears to be incorrect, and it seems that it should be changed to --26--.” Applicant has made such amendment. In addition, on line 11, Applicant has also made such amendment.

“On page 12, line 9, ‘37’ appears to be incorrect, and it seems that it should read --32--.” Applicant has made such amendment.

“On page 15, line 6, ‘adopted’ appears to be inaccurate, and it seems that it should read --adapted-- or the like.” Applicant has made such amendment.

“On page 17, line 15, ‘72 and 73’ appears to be inaccurate, and it seems that it should read --85 and 86--.” Applicant has made such amendment.

“On page 18, line 11, the phrase ‘the contact pressure between slide rail 80 and trough 43’ appears to be inaccurate, and it seems that it should read --the contact pressure within the trough 43 between slide rail 80 and infeed rail 42--.” Applicant has made such amendment.

“On page 19, line 12, ‘95 and 96’ appears to be inaccurate and it seems that it should be changed to --85 and 86--.” Applicant has made such amendment.

“On page 21, line 14, ‘Lever’ is improper and should read --lever--; in line 16, ‘96’ appears to be inaccurate and it seems that it should read --97--.” Applicant has made such amendments.

In addition, pursuant to the telephone discussion with the Examiner on August 26, 1999, Applicant has further amended page 17, line 13-19 of the Subject Application to read,

Preferably, workpiece guide 60 further includes support elements adapted to support infeed extension 64 and to maintain the regions of work supporting surface 67 of infeed platforms 72 and 73 generally coplanar with work surface 12. In the embodiment shown in the Figures, the support elements include a slide rail 80 and height adjustment mechanisms 83 and 84, all of which are adapted to slidably support infeed extension 64 and workpiece guide 60 on infeed rail 42 and are further adapted to selectively adjust the height and attitude of the work supporting surface 67 of infeed extension 64 relative to work surface 12. Slide rail 80 generally includes an L-shaped bracket member defined by arms 81 and 82 running transverse to body 62 beneath infeed extension 64 and adapted to slidably engage infeed rail 42.

On the basis of these amendments, removal of the present objections to the Specification is earnestly solicited.

V. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-8, 13-23, 40, 47-55, 61, and 65-73 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claims the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, in the Official Action, the Examiner has made the following statements and observations:

Claim 1

“In claim 1, line 2, the phrase ‘having’ is vague and indefinite as to what it refers (e.g., the workpiece guide or the cutting device).” Responsive to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite, in pertinent part, “the cutting device having [..].”

Claim 2

“In claim 2, line 3, it seems that a comma --,-- should be inserted after ‘walls’ for clarity; in line 4, ‘an infeed platform adjacent to each of said two side walls’ is vague and indefinite as to

the number of infeed platforms.” Responsive to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 2 to recite, in pertinent part, “wherein said elongated body has an infeed end and an outfeed end and further comprises two side walls and top and bottom walls, said infeed extension integral to said infeed end of said elongated body and comprising at least one infeed platform adjacent to each of said two side walls.”

### Claim 3

“In claim 3, line 2, ‘at least one support’ is vague and indefinite as to what disclosed structure it refers.” Responsive to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 3 to recite, in pertinent part, “wherein each said at least one infeed extension further comprises at least one support element [...]” In support of the amendments to claim 3, Applicant directs the attention of the Examiner to page 17, lines 13-19, of the Subject Application, as amended herein, which recite,

Preferably, workpiece guide 60 further includes support elements adapted to support infeed extension 64 and to maintain the regions of work supporting surface 67 of infeed platforms 72 and 73 generally coplanar with work surface 12. In the embodiment shown in the Figures, the support elements include a slide rail 80 and height adjustment mechanisms 83 and 84, all of which are adapted to slidably support infeed extension 64 and workpiece guide 60 on infeed rail 42 and are further adapted to selectively adjust the height and attitude of the work supporting surface 67 of infeed extension 64 relative to work surface 12. Slide rail 80 generally includes an L-shaped bracket member defined by arms 81 and 82 running transverse to body 62 beneath infeed extension 64 and adapted to slidably engage infeed rail 42. (emphasis added)

### Claim 4

“In claim 4, line 2, ‘an elongated member’ is vague and indefinite as to what disclosed structure it refers; in line 3, ‘adapted to contact’ is vague and indefinite as to how the surface is ‘adapted’.” Responsive to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 4 to recite, in pertinent

part, "wherein each said at least one support comprises an elongated bracket member attached to the underside of each said at least one infeed extension and having a surface shaped to engage at least a portion of the rail." (emphasis added). In support of the amendments to claim 4, Applicant directs the attention of the Examiner to page 17, lines 19-21, which state, "[s]lide rail 80 generally includes an L-shaped bracket member defined by arms 81 and 82 running transverse to body 62 beneath infeed extension 64 and adapted to slidably engage infeed rail 42." (emphasis added).

#### Claim 6

"In claim 6, line 3, 'adapted to exert' is vague and indefinite as to how the base portion is 'adapted'." Responsive to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 6 to recite, in pertinent part, "said threaded member oriented to exert an opposing force on the at least one rail of the saw and having a base portion and a head portion."

#### Claim 7

"In claim 7, line 2, 'adapted to slidably engage' is vague and indefinite as to how the threaded member is 'adapted'." Responsive to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 7 to recite, in pertinent part, "wherein said base portion of said threaded member is oriented to slidably engage the at least one rail."

#### Claim 15

"In claim 15, 'comprising' is vague as to what it refers." Pursuant to the telephone discussion with the Examiner of August 26, 1999, the Applicant understands the present rejection to relate to the use of the term "comprising" in line 6 of claim 15. Accordingly,



responsive to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 15 to recite, in pertinent part, “, said workpiece guide comprising [...]”

#### Claim 16

“In claim 16, lines 1-2, ‘has an infeed end and an outfeed end and’ is vague and indefinite and appears to be redundant, and it seems that it simply should be deleted.” Responsive to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 16 to delete the language at issue.

#### Claim 18

“In claim 18, lines 1-2, ‘at least one support’ is vague and indefinite as to what disclosed structure it refers; in line 2, ‘adapted to slidably support’ is vague and indefinite as to how the at least one support is ‘adapted’.” Responsive to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 18 to recite, in pertinent part, “at least one support element shaped to engage and slidably support said infeed extension on said infeed rail [...]” In support of this amendment to claim 18, Applicant directs the attention of the Examiner to page 17, lines 13-19, of the Subject Application, as amended herein, the pertinent portions of which are quoted above with regard to claim 3.

#### Claim 19

“In claim 19, lines 1-2, ‘an elongated member’ is vague and indefinite as to what disclosed structure it refers.” Responsive to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 19 to recite, in pertinent part, “an elongated bracket member [...]” In support of this amendment to claim 19, Applicant directs the attention of the Examiner to page 17, lines 19-21 of the Subject Application, as amended herein, the pertinent portions of which are quoted above with regard to claim 4.

#### Claim 21

“In claim 21, line 2, it seems that --of-- should be inserted after ‘each’ for clarity; in line 4, ‘adapted to exert’ is vague and indefinite as to how the threaded member is ‘adapted’.”

Responsive to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 21 to recite, in pertinent part, “each of said infeed platforms comprises a threaded bore in each said infeed platform having a threaded member disposed therethrough, said threaded member having a base portion and a head portion.”

#### Claim 22

“In claim 22, line 2, ‘adapted to slidably engage’ is vague and indefinite as to how the base portion is ‘adapted’.” Responsive to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 22 to recite, in pertinent part, “wherein said base portion of said threaded member is shaped to slidably engage said infeed rail.”

#### Claim 40

“In claim 40, line 4, ‘adapted to cut’ is vague and indefinite as to how the cutting member is ‘adapted’; in line 5, ‘positioned’ is vague and indefinite as to what it refers.” Responsive to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 40 to recite, in pertinent part, “a housing positioned atop said support structure and comprising a cutting member; and a debris collection system attached to said support structure, said debris collection system positioned [...]”

#### Claim 47

“In claim 47, line 2, ‘comprising’ is vague and indefinite as to what it refers; in line 6, ‘comprising’ is vague and indefinite as to what it refers; in line 8, the semi-colon ‘;’ is an improper ending for the claim, and it seems that it should be changed to a period --.--, and --and--

should be inserted after the semi-colon ‘;’ in line 5.” Responsive to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 47 to recite, in pertinent part, “said work surface further comprising: [...] an outfeed rail disposed along said outfeed edge; and a workpiece guide disposed on said guide rail system, said workpiece guide comprising [...] said elongated body having an infeed end and an outfeed end.”

#### Claim 48

“In claim 48, line 1-2, ‘has an infeed end and an outfeed end and’ is vague and indefinite and appears to be redundant, and it seems that it simply should be deleted.” Responsive to this rejection, Applicant has deleted the complained of language from claim 48.

#### Claim 50

“In claim 50, line 2, ‘at least one support’ is vague and indefinite as to what disclosed structure it refers; also in line 2, ‘adapted to slidably support’ is vague and indefinite as to how the at least one support is ‘adapted’.” Responsive to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 50 to recite, in pertinent part, “at least one support element oriented to slidably support said infeed extension on said infeed rail.” In support of this amendment to claim 50, Applicant directs the attention of the Examiner to page 17, lines 13-19, of the Subject Application, as amended herein, the pertinent portions of which are quoted above with regard to claim 3.

#### Claim 51

“In claim 51, line 2, ‘an elongated member’ is vague and indefinite as to what disclosed structure it refers.” Responsive to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 51 to recite, in pertinent part, “an elongated bracket member [...]” In support of this amendment to claim 51,

Applicant directs the attention of the Examiner to page 17, lines 19-21 of the Subject Application, as amended herein, the pertinent portions of which are quoted above with regard to claim 4.

Claim 52

“In claim 52, line 1, it seems that --of-- should be inserted after ‘each’ for clarity.”

Responsive to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 52 to recite, in pertinent part, “wherein each of said infeed platforms further comprises [...].”

Claim 53

“In claim 53, line 2, it seems that --of-- should be inserted after ‘each’ for clarity; in line 4, ‘adapted to exert’ is vague and indefinite as to how the threaded member is ‘adapted’.”

Responsive to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 53 to recite, in pertinent part, “wherein said adjustment mechanism of each of said infeed platforms comprises a threaded bore in each said infeed platform having a threaded member disposed therethrough, said threaded member having a base portion and a head portion.”

Claim 54

“In claim 54, line 2, ‘adapted to slidably engage’ is vague and indefinite as to how the base portion is ‘adapted’.” Responsive to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 54 to recite, in pertinent part, “wherein said base portion of said threaded member is shaped to slidably engage said infeed rail.”

#### Claim 61

“In claim 61, line 1, ‘having’ is vague and indefinite as to what it refers; in line 2, it seems that --further-- should be inserted before comprising if ‘having’ in line is intended to refer to the saw since additional structure is being defined for the saw.” Responsive to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 61 to recite, in pertinent part, “[a] saw comprising: a work surface having an infeed edge and an outfeed edge; [...].”

#### Claim 65

“In claim 65, line 2, ‘comprising’ is vague and indefinite as to what it refers.” Responsive to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 65 to recite, in pertinent part, “said workpiece guide comprising [...].”

#### Claim 66

“In claim 66, lines 1-2, ‘has an infeed end and an outfeed end and’ is vague and indefinite and appears to be redundant, and it seems that it simply should be deleted.” Responsive to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 66 to delete the language at issue.

#### Claim 68

“In claim 68, line 2, ‘at least one support’ is vague and indefinite as to what disclosed structure it refers; also in line 2, ‘adapted to slidably support’ is vague and indefinite as to how the at least one support is ‘adapted’.” Responsive to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 68 to recite, in pertinent part, “wherein said infeed extension further comprises at least one support element shaped to slidably engage said infeed rail.” In support of this amendment to claim 68, Applicant directs the attention of the Examiner to page 17, lines 13-19, of the Subject

Application, as amended herein, the pertinent portions of which are quoted above with regard to claim 3.

#### Claim 69

“In claim 69, line 2, ‘an elongated member’ is vague and indefinite as to what disclosed structure it refers.” Responsive to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 69 to recite, in pertinent part, “an elongated bracket member [...]”. In support of this amendment to claim 69, Applicant directs the attention of the Examiner to page 17, lines 19-21 of the Subject Application, as amended herein, the pertinent portions of which are quoted above with regard to claim 4.

#### Claim 70

“In claim 70, line 1, it seems that --of-- should be inserted after ‘each’ for clarity.” Responsive to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 70 to recite, in pertinent part, “each of said infeed platforms [...]”.

#### Claim 71

“In claim 71, line 2, it seems that --of-- should be inserted after ‘each’ for clarity; in line 4, ‘adapted to exert’ is vague and indefinite as to how the threaded member is ‘adapted’.” Responsive to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 71 to recite, in pertinent part, “each of said infeed platforms comprises a threaded bore in each said infeed platform having a threaded member disposed therethrough, said threaded member having a base portion and a head portion.”

### Claim 72

“In claim 72, line 2, ‘adapted to slidably engage’ is vague and indefinite as to how the base portion is ‘adapted’.” Responsive to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 72 to recite, in pertinent part, “wherein said base portion of said threaded member is oriented to slidably engage said infeed rail.”

### Claims 49-55 and 67-73

In addition, Applicant has further amended the subject matter of claims 49-55 and 67-73 to be consistent with the subject matter of the independent claims from which those claims ultimately depend. In particular, claims 49-55 ultimately depend from claim 40. Claim 40 is directed to “[a] saw [...].” Claims 49-55 have thus been amended herein to likewise refer to “[a] saw [...].” Claims 67-73 ultimately depend from claim 61. Claim 61 is directed to “[a] saw [...].” Claims 67-73 have been amended herein to likewise refer to “[a] saw [...].”

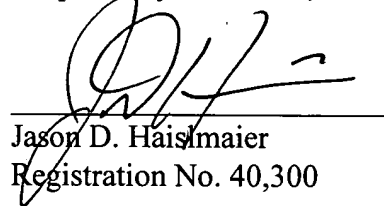
On the basis of these amendments, removal of the present rejections of claims 1-8, 13-23, 40, 47-55, 61, and 65-73 is earnestly solicited.

### VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the Subject Application, as amended herein, is in condition for allowance and such action is

respectfully requested. Accordingly, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and passage of the Subject Application, as amended herein, to allowance at an early date are earnestly solicited. However, should any points remain at issue which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the number listed below. In addition, should the Examiner deem that there remain grounds outstanding for objecting to the Subject Application, as amended herein, in light of the present amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that any subsequent action objecting to the Subject Application, as amended herein, not be made final.

Respectfully submitted,

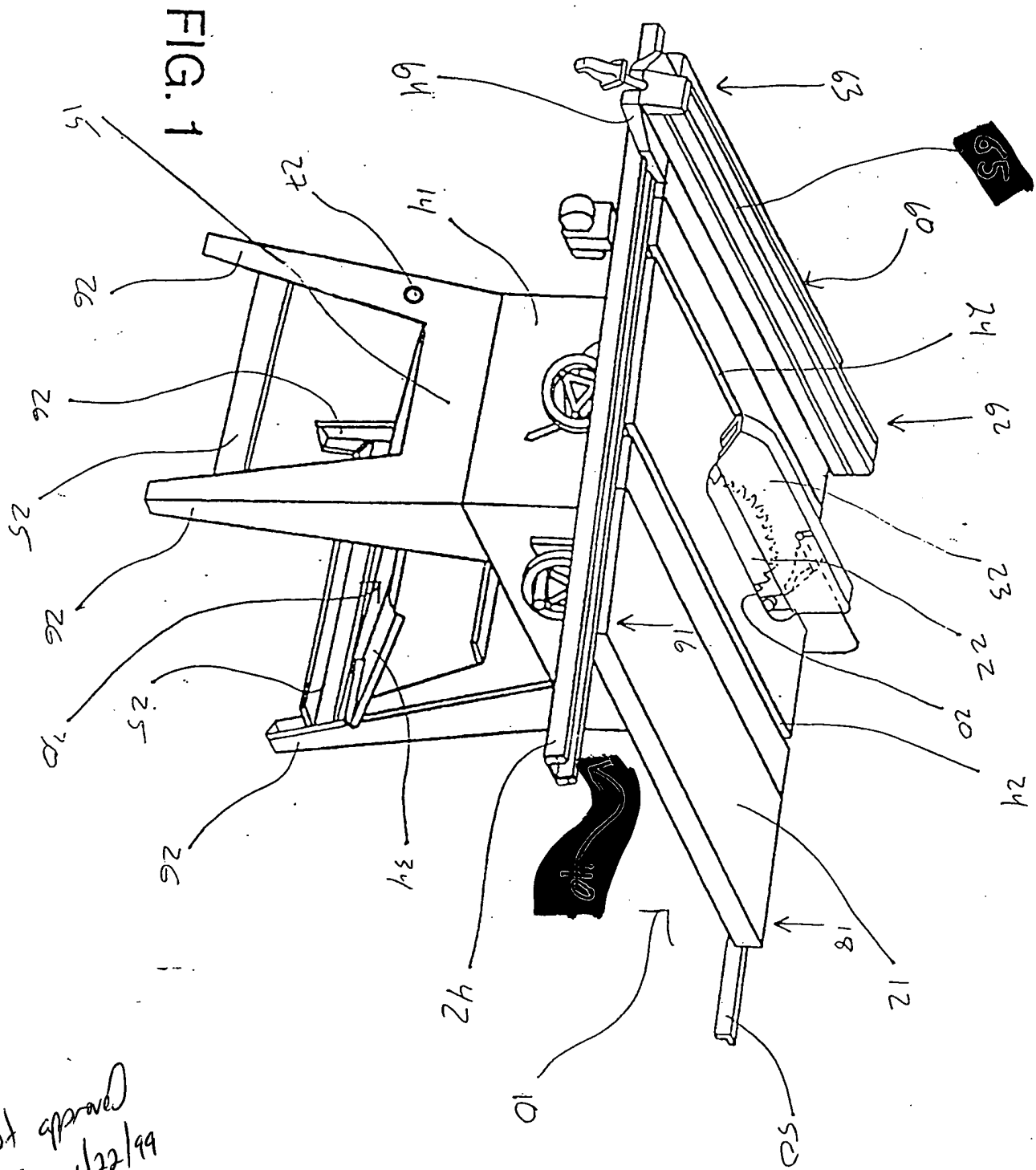


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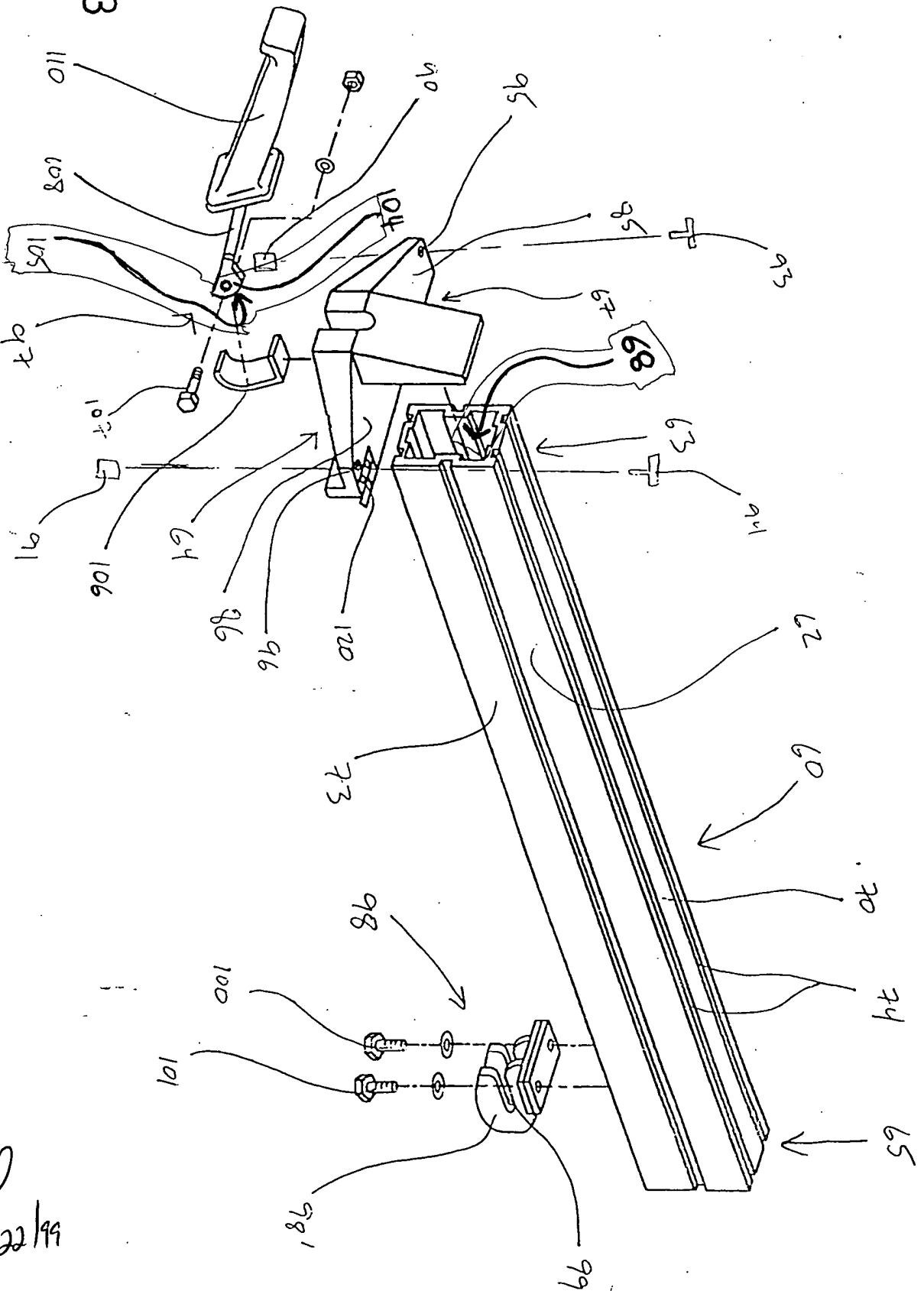




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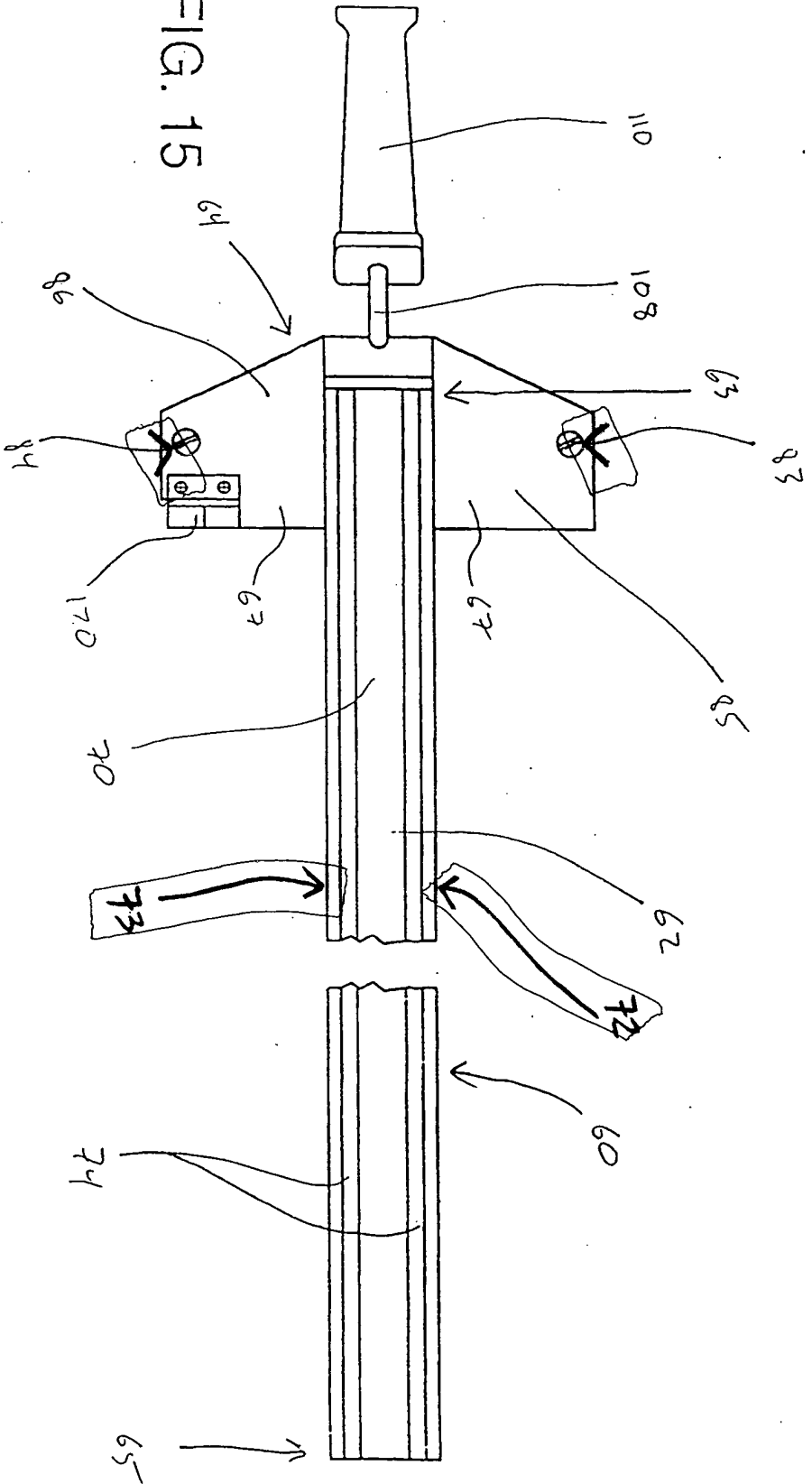


FIG. 13

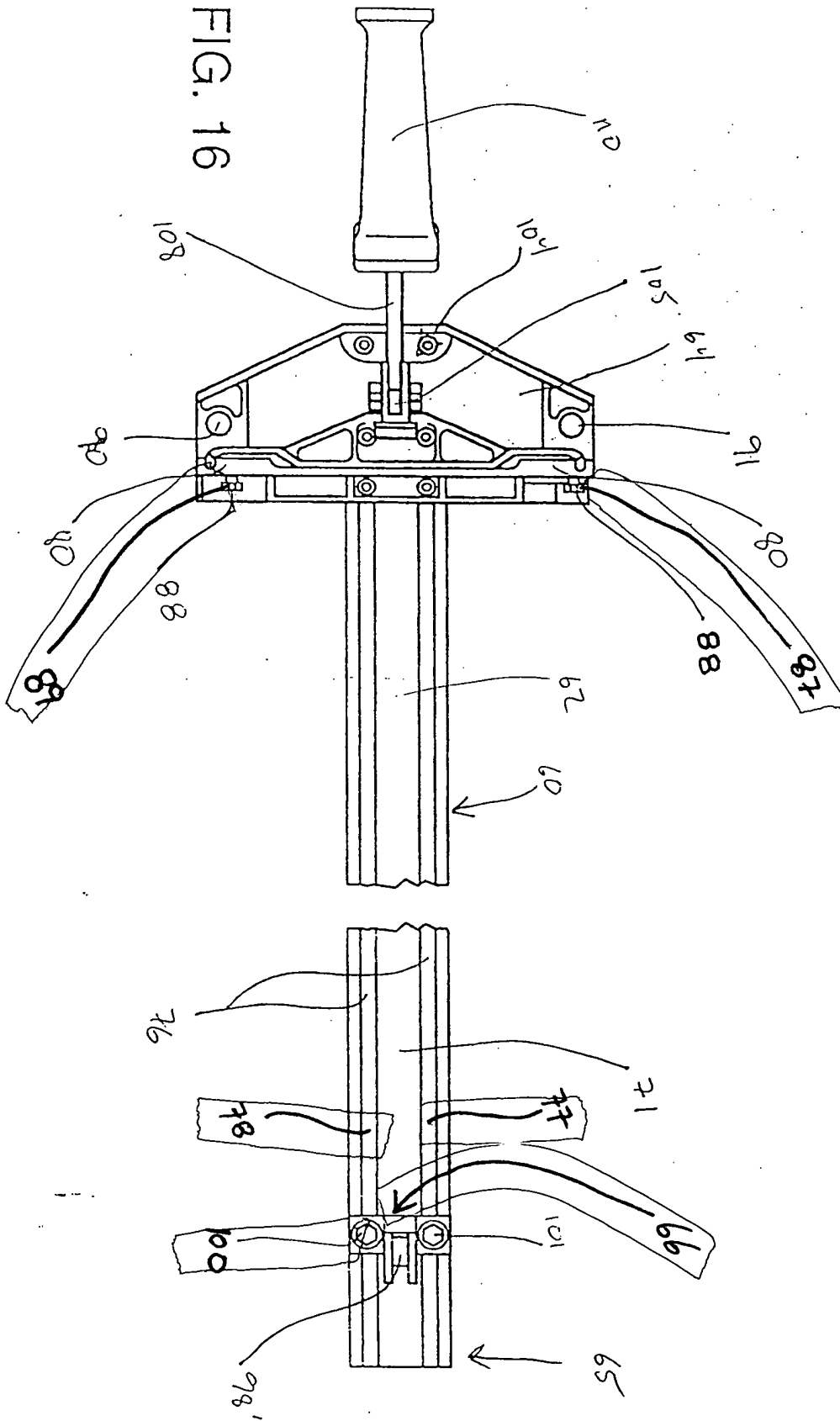


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FIG. 15



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